

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 20, 2012

**Agenda Item:** WMA Commission Rules

**Division:** Fish and Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final Adoption

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 15 minutes

---

### **Background**

FWP developed a draft set of FWP Commission rules intended to direct public use on all FWP Wildlife Management Areas. In the past, there has been variability and a lack of clarity related to public use rules among the state's 77 WMAs. Based on comments from public and internal FWP review, the proposed rules submitted Aug. 30, 2012 have been edited via "Track Changes". FWP will review and adjust these rules as needed on a biennial schedule.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

A public comment period began Aug. 31 and closed Oct.15. In addition to a press release calling for public comment, an "interested persons" letter with accompanying proposed rules was posted on the website and mailed to an established list of interested parties. FWP received comments to the proposed WMA Commission Rules via the FWP website, email, and hard copy mailings. During the same period, FWP provided additional review is reflected in the tracked edits.

A total of seven public comments were received. Comments raised questions and suggested edits on specific rules, including the restricted use of weapons outside of hunting, food storage requirements, firewood collecting, the winter closure to public access, and removal of natural resources. A summary sheet of public comments is included.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The proposed rules have undergone considerable review and refinement, both by the public and by FWP. Alternatives could involve either additional adjustment to individual rules or choosing not to adopt rules at this time. The biennial cycle allows for rule adjustments over time if the need arises. In the absence of commission rules, users of WMAs and many department staff will continue to lack a clear understanding of what public uses are allowed and the WMAs will continue to lack basic resource protections that the proposed rules provide.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends final adoption of the proposed rules that include the tracked edits as provided to the Commission.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the FWP Commission adopt the WMA Commission rules with the latest changes as presented.